

INTERCULTURAL LIMASSOL!

Report on the technical and methodological support to the Intercultural City of Limassol in developing actions related to the Antirumours Methodology promoted by the Council of Europe

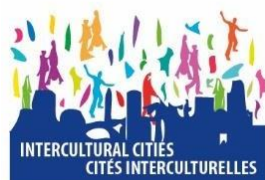


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This report was prepared for the Intercultural Cities Programme of the Council of Europe by Dani de Torres and Gemma Pinyol-Jiménez

The opinions expressed in this work are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Council of Europe.

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#01. CONTEXT

Fighting discrimination, racism, and segregation is one of the crucial goals of the intercultural cities approach. It seeks to deal with the root causes of inequality, discrimination and lack of cohesion – the natural tendency of in-groups, defined by ethnic or cultural criteria – to secure benefits for the members of the group at the expense of other groups. The Intercultural Cities programme supports cities in reviewing their policies through an intercultural lens and developing comprehensive intercultural strategies to help them manage diversity positively and realise the “diversity advantage.” In this context, the Antirumours Strategy should be understood as a specific strategy or instrument within a set of political and social actions aimed at promoting the creation of more inclusive and intercultural societies.

To support Intercultural Limassol in developing actions related to the Antirumours Strategy, the ICC has asked Gemma Pinyol and Dani de Torres to contribute to this process. The project is linked to the actions promoted by the entity in the framework of an AMIF project in which the municipality is already involved.

The experts have been involved from the very beginning with Antirumours Global by Diversit. It provides support to a wide variety of Antirumours Strategies both in Spain, where the initiative starts, and abroad. From training to municipalities’ team and Antirumours agents to providing advice in the design of the strategy. In addition, ARG provides tools and knowledge to cities that have an Antirumours Strategy, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and good practice. Some examples are the Escape Roomours or the adaptation of the Antirumours Strategy to the Education field.

This document summarizes the different tasks developed under the contract on technical and methodological support to the Intercultural City of Limassol in developing actions related to the Antirumours methodology promoted by the Council of Europe.

#02. GOALS

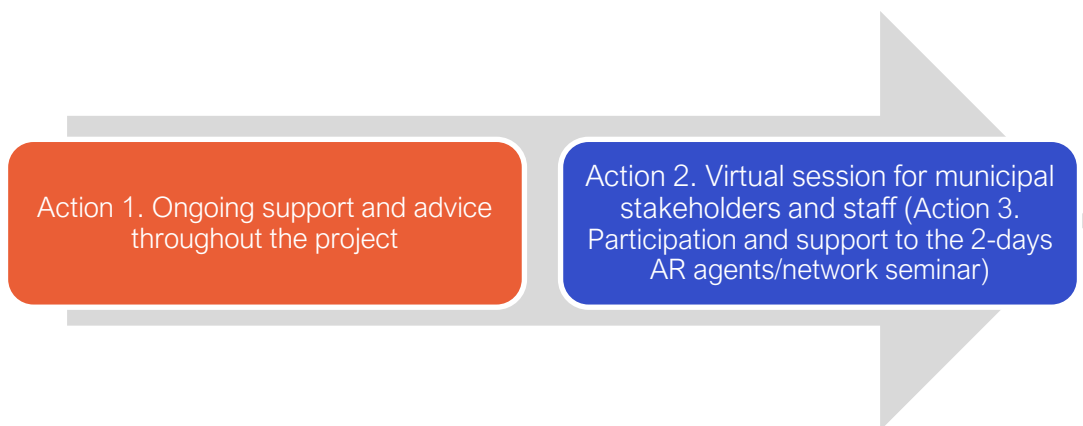
Dani de Torres and Gemma Pinyol-Jiménez, have provided technical and methodological support to the Intercultural City of Limassol in developing actions related to the Antirumours Methodology promoted by the Council of Europe.

The specific goals of this support were:

- Support the process of the design, training and implementation of the Antirumours Strategy until the end of the AMIF project cycle
- Accompanying the city through meetings (mainly organised remotely), information exchange, knowledge sharing through good practices from other cities, recommendations or assessments of proposed actions and tools, in line with the CoE Antirumours methodology;
- Participating and providing support during a 2-day seminar/webinar targeting Antirumours agents/network, including a training for Antirumours agents and assistance in the design and consolidation of the Antirumours network and its work agenda.

#03. DELIVERABLES

In order to fulfil the goals, this support action has been developed from January 2021 to July 2021 through 3 activities.



Action 1. Ongoing support and advice throughout the project

This support and advice have consisted of exchanging several emails and holding virtual meetings with the local team (4th of February, 12th of March, 15th and 25th of June) and has included capacity building on the Antirumours methodology, exchange of information and good practices from other cities, making recommendations and assessments on proposed actions and guaranteeing that those actions followed the Antirumours methodology from the Council of Europe.

The support has been done since the inception of the strategy, the revision of the Anti-Rumours analysis report, and the following steps relate.

In addition, on 19 January 2020, we participated in the press conference to present the project in which the Mayor of Limassol and other political and technical representatives from other municipalities took part.

Action 2. Antirumours training for municipal stakeholders and local staff

On the basis of the anti-rumour diagnosis that was carried out, the Limassol team decided to focus the anti-rumour training on the fields of art, culture, education and sport.

The training consisted of 4 online sessions of 2 hours and 15 minutes (on 13, 15, 22 and 27 April 2021) and 27 participants took part in the training.

The profile of participants was very diverse, including local staff and stakeholders from the educational, cultural and media fields, among others.

The training sessions covered the following topics

- Introduction to the Antirumours strategy and approach
- Main theoretical concepts and methodology
- Antirumours communication and examples of antirumours actions
- Brainstorming to propose concrete antirumours actions for Limassol strategy

The training was very positive and the diversity of profiles and involvement of the participants was very high.

This group represents a good opportunity to consolidate a future Limassol anti-rumour network.

By the end of the period, the Limassol local team aimed to develop an antirumours action linked to journalists and the media and was in the process of defining a work plan for the future development of its antirumours strategy.

#04. ANNEXES

1. LIST OF MEETINGS

JANUARY 2021 – JULY 2021	
19/01/2021	Participation in the press conference to present the project
04/02/2021	Follow-up Meeting with Limassol Municipality
13/03/2021	Follow-up Meeting with Limassol Municipality
13/04/2021	Training Session I
15/04/2021	Training Session II
22/04/2021	Training Session III
27/04/2021	Training Session IV
15/06/2021	Internal meeting (Experts and Nenad Bogdanovic)
25/06/2021	Final Meeting with Limassol Municipality

2. LIST OF INSPIRING ANTIRUMOURS ACTIONS

1. ANTIRUMOURS YOUTH SUMMIT
2. A SCHOOL OPEN TO OTHER CULTURES
3. ESCAPE ROOMOURS
4. GETXO FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL
5. INTERNATIONAL SKATEBOARDING CHAMPIONSHIP
6. ANTIRUMOURS TRIPLE CHECK
7. BULLSH*T BOTKYRKA
8. SUMMER TIPS
9. DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS
10. BRADFORD PEOPLE LIBRARY

(Youth)

#1. ANTIRUMOURS YOUTH SUMMIT

The Anti-Rumour Youth Summit is an annual event that has been held since 2016. After the editions in Sabadell, Pamplona, Getxo and Madrid, and Tenerife, the sixth edition took place in a virtual format with the help of Antirumours global.

The Summit brings together young people between 13 and 18 years of age from different cities with an Antirumour Strategy and that have carried out work directly with the youth. It consists of a space for coexistence, participation, learning and motivation, learning and motivation. The idea is that young people can make use of everything they have learnt in their local work.

This year's edition took place on the 15, 16, 17 and 18 July, as part of the World Youth Skills Day and focused on the role of the Anti-Rumour Strategy in the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, among other things. Being the first edition with both national and international participants, the Summit was held under the slogan "Let's go global under the slogan "Let's go global".

More information:

[VI Let's Go Global](#)

[V Tenerife 2020](#)

[IV Madrid 2019](#)

[III Pamplona 2018](#)

[II Getxo 2017](#)

[Youtube Video, II Getxo](#)

[I Sabadell 2016](#)

CELEBRAMOS EL DÍA MUNDIAL DE LAS HABILIDADES DE LA JUVENTUD

Hoy celebramos el día mundial de las habilidades de las personas jóvenes poniendo en valor su capacidad transformadora y su aportación a la construcción de sociedades más inclusivas

COMIENZA LA CUMBRE JUVENIL ANTIRUMORES 2021

Antirumours

EUROPEAN UNION

diversit.

#2. A SCHOOL OPEN TO OTHER CULTURES

A "School Open to Other Cultures" program is promoted by the Department of Education and the Department of Social Services of the City Council of Cartagena. The program aims to contribute to developing intercultural awareness in educational communities, promoting knowledge of different cultures, respect for diversity, and enrichment through intercultural dialogue.

This initiative targets primary and secondary schools in the municipality in which different organisations with relevant experience created a total of 26 didactic units that carry out various activities. They deal with numerous thematic areas such as coexistence, interculturality, cultural diversity, combatting rumours, bullying, universal declaration of human rights, promotion of equal treatment and non-discrimination, movements and causes of migratory processes, stereotypes and prejudices, north-south inequalities, sustainable development objectives and volunteering.

More information:

[A school open to other cultures](#)

[Intercultural Education Programme](#)



#3. ESCAPE ROOMOURS

Escape Roomours is an initiative created to encourage the incorporation of young people in the Anti-Rumour approach and to maintain the participation of those already involved in it. It is an online platform that features four virtual characters with different stories that are conveyed through videos and five challenges that include true/false exercises, riddles, and interactive actions for participants.

The Escape Room methodology offers an exciting opportunity to promote interaction and cooperation dynamics among participants. Moreover, it is an online tool that can be used in various contexts without the need for investment in adapting the spaces (in classrooms in educational centres, at the headquarters of associations, cultural centres, etc.).

The initiative is designed especially for young people, who, through their participation in the Escape Roomours can have a first contact with the Anti-rumour approach. It promotes knowledge and different skills such as critical thinking, empathy and positive interaction. This is done by overcoming various tests that require cooperation between the group to achieve a common goal, following Allport's contact theory criteria.



More information:

[Launch of Escape Roomours](#)

(Culture/Sport)

#4. GETXO FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL

Every year Getxo Town Hall organises different music festivals of different genres (jazz, folk, blues) and theatre performances. Every year, both residents and famous artists come together during these festivals.

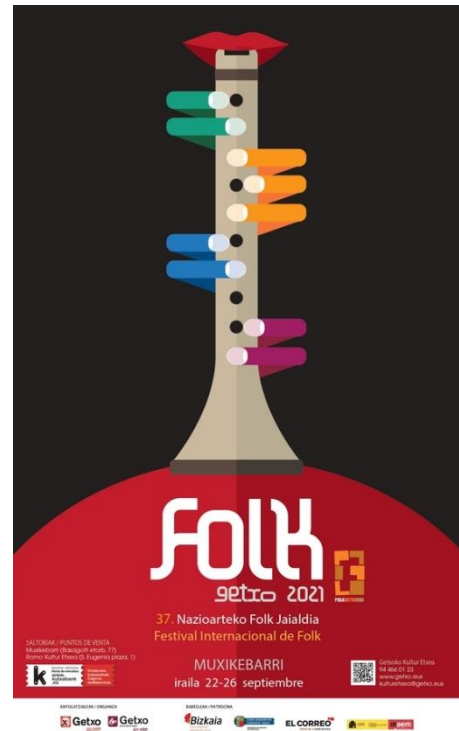
As part of the GETXO FOLK international festival, a giant marquee is set up in which the Getxo Immigrant Platform Federation offers different attractions and activities. These include an exquisite menu of international cuisine, the visualisation of the activities of the various intercultural associations, and the provision of a space for positive coexistence between local and migrant people who come to enjoy the music and activities of the festival.

More information:

[Getxo Folk](#)

[Getxo Town Council \(culture\)](#)

[Poster about the Folk Festival 2019](#)



#5. INTERNATIONAL SKATEBOARDING CHAMPIONSHIP

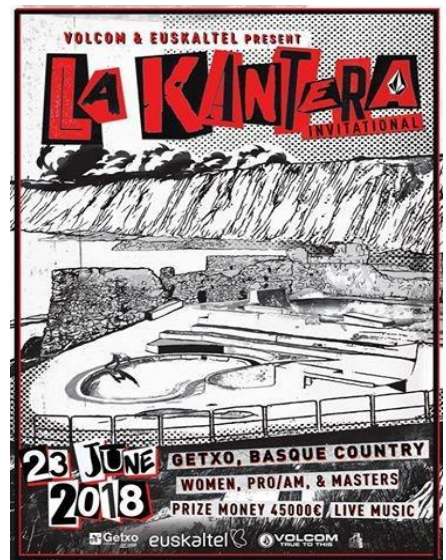
La Kantera is a magical place, not only for its spectacular views but also for its history. In 1987 when skateboarding was not as well known as today, a group of locals decided to start building a skatepark. As a result, La Kantera was the first skatepark built in the Basque Country and is one of the oldest remaining skateparks in Europe.

Getxo hosted one of the Volcom BOWL-A-RAMA Skateboarding World Championship phases at the "La Kantera" skatepark, and Antirumours didn't want to miss it. Therefore, throughout the previous days and during the event itself, agents of the anti-rumour network contacted the participants in the different categories to challenge them: to knock down the rumours about their sport and the people who practice it and ask for their support for the Getxo Anti-Rumour Strategy.

They were able to collect numerous testimonials from participants and champions of international stature that also helped raise awareness on the danger of negative stereotypes and prejudices in different environments: anyone is within reach of a false belief. For this occasion, there were also two key supporters: The event organisers Volcom, who expressed their support for the strategy, and the backing and support of Getxo Kirolak. In addition, during the event, there was an exhibition space where children from the municipality could have their photos taken showing their stand against the rumours and participate in the raffle of a whole set of skateboarding equipment.

More information:

[Getxo City Council](#)



(Communication/Media)

#6 ANTIRUMOUR TRIPLE CHECK

Triple Check is a visual tool to raise awareness of the importance of checking the information we receive on the Internet. Triple Check is an initiative of the Xarxa de Valors of Santa Coloma de Gramenet City Council.

The tool features three characters (Pinocchio, the Monster and Socrates) and conveys three key concepts for analysing information: "reflect – give it a thought - act". The idea is to design campaigns with the three characters to highlight the importance of prejudice, stereotypes and discrimination. Through networks and apps such as Whatsapp, distribute content with Socrates' Triple Filter as a common thread (Truthfulness, Kindness, Usefulness). In this way, organisations, teachers and students become anti-rumour agents.

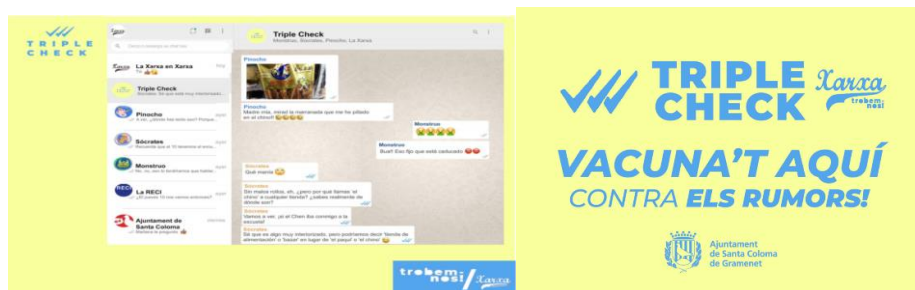
More information:

[Triple Check video](#)

[Xarxa de Valors](#)

[@xarxavalors_sc](#)

#TripleCheck



#7. BULLSH*T BOTKYRKA

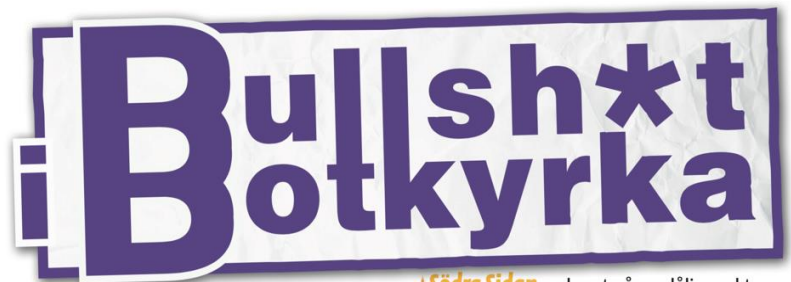
A local newspaper in Botkyrka has been actively involved in the Anti-Rumour Strategy. In addition to writing about the different actions that are taking place throughout the municipality, they created an extra section called Bullshit Botkyrka in which they discussed rumours and held interviews with residents. The main aim of this newspaper was to talk about the positive things within the municipality and not only about all the negative things that other media usually write about.

Among other things, they published short interviews in which people from Botkyrka responded to how local rumours affect them. The answers were varied, with some people mentioning that they are proud to live in a diverse community, while others respond that they are scared to go out late in the evening, primarily because of the rumours. They present different aspects and have interviewed young and older people, local politicians and other people from local organisations.

More information:

[Anti-rumourSweden](#)

(Awareness-raising)



EN DEL AV DIREKTPRESS BILAGA TILL NUMMER 20 - 2015

→ **Södra Sidan** reder ut några dåliga rykten

#8. SUMMER TIPS

As part of Bilbao's Anti-rumour strategy, the city has launched a visual campaign to combat rumours.

The campaign comprised a series of infographic-comics designed by artist Quan Zou and was launched in the summer, which tends to be a period of less publication of content and campaigns. It consists of five anti-rumour ideas illustrated in a summer context.

The material has been shared by different municipalities and on various platforms, but mainly through social media. The images collect five anti-rumour ideas.

More information:

[Antirumours Bilbao](https://www.bilbao.euzkadi.net/antirumors)



#9. DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

Within the framework of the Antirumours Strategy of the city of Bilbao, the city held a seminar on difficult conversations. Previously, the Antirumours network had identified the need for tools to deal with difficult situations or conversations, and the seminar aimed to address this problem.

The seminar had a theatre group where three situations were played out in three different environments: the family environment, the workspace, and the public environment. In each of these, difficult conversations were dealt with in different ways.

The activity, implemented by Amekadi, is also carried out in other EARs in the Basque Country, such as Barakaldo.

More information:

[Teaser](#)



#10. BRADFORD PEOPLE LIBRARY

As part of the 'Bradford for everyone' programme, the Bradford district has launched the People Library. This is a growing collection of human 'books', all with interesting, surprising and inspiring stories to tell. The stories reflect both the diversity and commonalities among the district's residents.

The People Library was launched on 12 November 2020 on the "Bradford for everyone" website, where you can read, watch and share the inspiring stories featured.

The bookshop will continue to grow into a sustainable "Bradford Bookshop" and is open to new contributions and inspiring stories.

More information:

[People Library](#)

[Bradford for everyone](#)

